



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

LUNCHTIME SEMINAR

No Seat at the Table How Corporate Governance and Law Keep Women Out of America's Boardrooms

Professor Douglas M Branson
University of Pittsburgh

In the US, women have been earned MBAs, JDs, and advanced degrees in great numbers for 35 years. Yet they constitute only 8 percent of the senior managers and 10 percent of the directors of major American corporations. This seminar is based on Professor Branson's recently published book of the same title (New York University Press, 2007). The book researches the Fortune 500, demonstrating how the reported numbers lag badly behind the expectations and how reality lags further behind yet. Research drawn from linguistics, sociology, work/life literature, corporate governance, and other fields explicate reasons on why this might be so. Professor Branson's research also demonstrates that much of the advice available on how women might advance, as well as published statistics on progress they have made, are either wrong or misguided. A near majority of women directors sidestep onto corporate boards after careers in academe, not-for-profits, or government. Working one's way up in one or two organizations and being aggressive and assertive may be the worst kinds of counsel for women who aspire to the higher rungs of the corporate ladder. In Australia, women have ascended into senior management positions and onto boards of directors with less frequency than even the US. Do much the same explanations hold true? Or is the situation in Australia fundamentally different?

Professor Douglas M Branson is W Edward Sell Professor of Business Law at The University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He is considered to be one of the leading corporate law experts in the US and is a prolific writer whose work has been described as the best "traditional" corporate scholarship currently being done. Professor Branson also holds a Faculty appointment at The University of Melbourne in its Master of Laws program. His reputation as one of the US's most productive and thoughtful business law scholars has earned Professor Branson an influential role in framing the highly prestigious American Law Institute's recommendations for corporate governance.

DATE: Monday 7 May 2007
TIME: 12.45 – 2:00pm
PLACE: Room 608, Level 6 - Melbourne Law School
185 Pelham Street
Carlton

RSVP: Josephine Peters
Tel: (03) 8344 5281
Email: j.peters@unimelb.edu.au

This is a free seminar (RSVP is required. Please RSVP to the above email address by Friday 4 May 2007)

A light lunch will be provided